

PATENT APPLICATION

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed. The cited U.S. patent is an English-language counterpart of JPA 7-073338. A complete English translation of JP 6-176131 is enclosed.

The listed documents were cited in two Office Actions issued on September 13, 2002, in the counterpart Japanese applications. A copy of each Office Action is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)


Each item of information in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner, that the next official communication indicate that such information has been considered, and that the Examiner initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 indicating that the information listed thereon has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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